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Report on the Patterson Convention

Mariological Society of America

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REPORT ON THE PATERSON CONVENTION

The Mariological Society of America held its tenth annual convention in Paterson, N. J., on Monday and Tuesday, January 5 and 6, 1959. The various sessions took place in the *McBride Room* of the Alexander Hamilton Hotel and were attended by about one hundred delegates representing most States of the Union.

The meeting was opened promptly at ten o'clock in the morning by the President of the Society, Father Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm, of Washington, D. C. After a brief allocution bearing on the general scope of these annual conventions, Father Carroll called upon His Excellency, the Most Reverend James A. McNulty, D.D., Bishop of Paterson, to extend the customary "official welcome" to the assembled guests. Bishop McNulty, whose episcopal motto happens to be *Ad Jesum per Mariam* (To Jesus Through Mary), explained that it was a distinct honor for him to be able to play host to an organization which was doing so much to promote a deeper understanding of the grandeurs of the Blessed Virgin, and he encouraged those present to continue delving into the great truths of Marian theology in order to enrich their own knowledge and to serve as instruments in bringing many souls to Christ through His Mother.

Following Bishop McNulty's cordial welcome, the Secretary of the Society, Father Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., made a few important announcements concerning registration, the celebration of Holy Mass during the convention, and the meeting of the Board of Directors scheduled for that evening.

Immediately after the announcements, at approximately 10:30, Father Carroll introduced the Rev. Paul Mahoney, O.P., of Chicago, Ill., who was the keynote speaker of the con-

vention. The youthful speaker discussed the nature, derivation and function of Mariological principles in general, giving ample evidence of keen theological insight throughout the presentation of the subject. His discussion leader was the Rev. Ferrer Smith, O.P., of Washington, D. C.

Due to the fact that after Father Mahoney's dissertation there was still sufficient time before luncheon for another paper, the President decided to call upon the Rev. Edward D. O'Connor, C.S.C., of Notre Dame, Indiana, to read the essay he was scheduled to present on the second day of the convention. Father O'Connor, whose topic was *The Fundamental Principle of Mariology in Medieval Thought*, reviewed the pertinent testimonies of St. Anselm, St. Bernard, John de la Rochelle, St. Bonaventure, St. Albert the Great and St. Thomas. He restricted his research to the theological tracts of these medieval scholars, pointing out that it would have been unfeasible to gather the data from the abundant homiletic literature of the period. Father James Forgac, O.S.B., of Cleveland, Ohio, led the discussion following Father O'Connor's erudite paper.

At 1:15 in the afternoon, after the usual refreshments, the delegates gathered in the beautifully decorated *Ball Room* of the hotel where the management had prepared an exquisite luncheon. Among the distinguished guests attending were His Excellency, the Most Rev. James A. McNulty, Bishop of Paterson, His Excellency, the Most Rev. John J. Wright, Episcopal Chairman of the Mariological Society, and His Excellency, the Most Rev. Walter W. Curtis, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. At the end of the luncheon, the President, Father Carroll, announced that the winner of the coveted Mariological Award of the year was the Rev. Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., of Woodstock, Maryland, Vice-President of the Society, and he immediately read the following citation:

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THE MARIOLOGICAL AWARD FOR 1958

Citation

The annual award of The Mariological Society of America is destined this year for a scholar who has truly deserved well of the scientific study of Our Lady in the United States of America. It is a privilege to name the recipient as Father Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., currently vice-president of the Mariological Society.

Father Burghardt was born in New York City in 1914. After completing his secondary education at Xavier High School, he entered the Society of Jesus in 1931. He made his philosophical and theological studies, gaining the degrees of Master of Arts and the Licentiate in Philosophy, at Woodstock College, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1941. Father Burghardt took graduate studies in sacred theology at the Catholic University of America from 1943 to 1946. The field of his specialization was the Fathers of the Church. His doctoral dissertation, completed under the direction of Dr. Johannes Quasten, was published in 1957: *The Image of God according to Cyril of Alexandria*.

Father Burghardt's present occupations include many academic posts: professor of patrology and patristic theology at Woodstock College; managing editor of *Theological Studies*; co-editor of the newly-founded *Woodstock Papers*, and author of one of the first two titles in this collection—*The Testimony of the Patristic Age Concerning Mary's Death* (1957); co-editor with Dr. Johannes Quasten of the series, *Ancient Christian Writers*. He also holds positions in both The Catholic Theological Society of America and The Mariological Society of America.

In addition to his professorial and editorial assignments, Father Burghardt has lectured at many other institutions of higher learning such as The University of Notre Dame, Georgetown University, Fordham University, etc. His talents both as scholar and as orator make him a sought-after lecturer, preacher and speaker. He has, for example, conducted a twice-monthly radio program in Baltimore since 1951, presenting the best in ecclesiastical music and applying Catholic theology to modern life. On Christmas Day, eleven days

ago, he was narrator of the Baltimore television program, "Woodstock Christmas."

Father Burghardt has many Mariological writings to his credit. Many members of the Society will recall his paper at our eighth convention in 1957, on the patristic evidence concerning our Lady's death. The first two volumes of the three-volume *Mariology* set edited by Father Juniper B. Carol, O.F.M., contain two brilliant essays by Father Burghardt, survey articles on the Mariological testimony of the Fathers of the West and of the East. He has also contributed to *Traditio*, *The Catholic Mind*, *Proceedings of The Catholic Theological Society of America*, and other periodicals. Regular surveys and frequent book reviews in *Theological Studies* report on new developments in the world-wide study of the Fathers.

Further Burghardt has a number of writing projects of particular Mariological interest in preparation. One is an entire book on the Mariology of the patristic age.

For all these reasons, and for many similar ones, the contribution of Father Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., to Mariological studies in the United States of America has been deemed worthy of the signal recognition conferred by this award. All the members of the Society will second this choice and will, we are confident, be happy to add both an *Ave* and an *Amen* to the weighty words of praise Father Burghardt received in the review by G. Philips in *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses* of volume II of *Mariology*. The appraisal of the distinguished Louvain critic applies not merely to the particular article under review, but is a measure of the man himself:

"Father Burghardt has put together a very rich, up-to-date documentation on the testimony of Eastern patristic thought with reference to the Virgin. He sets it forth with utter honesty, without reticence."

Having received from the President the envelope containing the award, Father Burghardt addressed a few appropriate words to the delegates expressing his heartfelt appreciation for the honor received, and promising to pursue with even greater enthusiasm his labors in the alluring field of patristic Mariology.

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At 2:30 in the afternoon the delegates again gathered in the *McBride Room* for the second general assembly. The first item on the agenda was the election of new officers to the Board of Directors. The President announced that the Nominating Committee had submitted the names of Rev. Stanley Matuszewski, M.S., of Olivet, Illinois, and Rev. Edward A. Cerny, S.S., of Baltimore, Maryland, and having taken a vote, this slate was unanimously approved.

Immediately after the election, the President invited Father William F. Hogan, of Darlington, N. J., to come to the lectern and read his paper on *The Fundamental Principle of Mariology According to the Magisterium*. The learned speaker made a very careful and objective analysis of the teaching of the popes within the past one hundred years and concluded that they all point to the divine motherhood as the basic truth from which all the other privileges of Our Lady flow. He noted, however, that the popes had never presented this teaching as definitive or as binding on theologians. The profitable exchange of views which followed was conducted by the Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Gallo of Paterson, N. J. The entire session was presided over by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Walter W. Curtis, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark.

One of the highlights of the annual convention is always the Holy Hour which brings to a close the first day of the meeting. The services were held in the neighboring Church of Our Lady of Victories, one of the historic shrines of the city. The celebrant was Father Eamon R. Carroll, President of the Society, who was assisted by Father J. Armand Robichaud, S.M., as deacon, and Father Peter Regalatus Biasiotto, O.F.M., as subdeacon. The preacher for the occasion was His Excellency, the Most Reverend James A. McNulty, Bishop of Paterson, who in his inspiring sermon paid particular attention to the spiritual connotations of the Lourdes centennial

and expressed the hope that it would be a source of abundant heavenly favors for all Mary's clients.

The first general assembly on the second day of the meeting was called to order by Father Carroll at ten o'clock in the morning. The paper scheduled for this time was entitled *The Fundamental Principle of Mariology in Patristic Thought*, by the Rev. Albert Kippes, O.M.I., of San Antonio, Texas. The speaker undertook a detailed and thorough examination of numerous texts of the Fathers concerning Our Blessed Lady and concluded that, while the specific question of the fundamental principle was never discussed in them *ex professo*, nevertheless, they do seem to point to Mary's divine motherhood as the central dogma in Mariology. The stimulating discussion on Father Kippes' thought-provoking paper was led by Father Alban A. Maguire, O.F.M., of Washington, D. C.

After a brief recess, the President again called the meeting to order and introduced Father Alban A. Maguire, O.F.M., who, as Chairman of the Regional Meetings, read a brief report on the various meetings which were held during 1958. His report appears in this same volume.

Immediately after Father Maguire's report, the President called upon the next speaker on the program, namely, the Rev. Mark J. Dorenkemper, C.P.P.S., of Carthage, Ohio, who read a remarkable and very original essay on the difficult subject of *Subsidiary Principles of Mariology*. According to the speaker, the traditional principles of transcendence and fittingness are not properly "mariological" principles, since they are frequently used also in other tracts of the sacred science of theology. He contended, furthermore, that the first and second subsidiary principles of Mariology are Our Lady's Coredemption and her position as Prototype of the Church, respectively. The Rev. Anselm E. Burke, O.Carm., was

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charged with conducting the fruitful discussion following the paper.

Promptly at 2:30 in the afternoon the delegates gathered in the *McBride Room* to hear the last lecture on the program. This was a very well elaborated thesis by the Rev. Michael Griffin, O.C.D., of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on *The Divine Motherhood, the Fundamental Principle of Mariology*. Throughout his paper the speaker stressed that the basic truth concerning Our Blessed Lady is the divine motherhood, not *nude sumpta*, but *adaequate sumpta*, and indeed as it took place *in concreto* in the present economy of salvation. His lecture gave rise to a very enlightening exchange of views among those present, under the direction of the Rev. Frank J. Kenney, S.M., of Brooklyn, N. Y.

The business meeting scheduled for 3:30 P.M. was called to order by the President, Father Carroll. The first item on the agenda was a brief financial report read by Father J. Armand Robichaud, S.M., Treasurer of the Society. This was followed by the Secretary's report in which it was disclosed that the 1960 annual convention of the Society would be held at the Sheraton Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, Michigan, on Monday and Tuesday, January 4 and 5, pending approval of His Excellency, the Most Rev. John F. Dearden, Archbishop of Detroit. The general topic for discussion will be: *Our Lady in the Gospels*, and will be treated by experts in the field of Sacred Scripture. Father Carol then read the list of those who had applied for membership in the organization during the year 1958, and upon a duly seconded motion, all were officially enrolled in the Society. Our present membership thus reaches a total of 382, of which 321 are active members and 61 associate members.

The final item on the agenda was the President's report. Father Carroll announced that the committee of judges for the Seminarians' Contest had selected the Rev. Mr. Quentin

Quesnelle, S.J., of St. Mary's College, St. Marys, Kansas, as the winner of this year's contest. The title of his entry was: *The Mary-Church Analogy: Toward Theological Possession*. The recipient was immediately informed by telegram that he had been awarded \$100.00 for his excellent dissertation.

The President then conveyed his personal gratitude and that of the Board of Directors to all those who had in any way contributed to the success of the Tenth National Convention. He singled out, specifically, His Excellency, the Most Rev. James A. McNulty, Bishop of Paterson, for having invited our group to his diocese, for his generous donation to the Society, and particularly for his inspiring sermon during the Holy Hour services; His Excellency, the Most Rev. John J. Wright, Bishop of Worcester, Episcopal Chairman of the Mariological Society, for his continuous and very generous support of our organization; His Excellency, the Most Rev. Walter W. Curtis, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, for having graced some of the sessions with his presence; the Very Rev. Stanley Matuszewski, M.S., editor of *Our Lady's Digest*, for his substantial donations to the Society during 1958; the Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Gallo, Mr. James Gilmary Cahill, Mr. Gerald Fitzpatrick and the Knights of Columbus for their valuable assistance in making the necessary arrangements for the meeting; the Rev. Thomas Boyle, pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Victories, for his kindness in offering the use of his beautiful church for the Holy Hour; the various speakers and discussion leaders for their informative lectures and discussions; and the management of the Alexander Hamilton Hotel for its efficient and friendly services.

Upon a duly seconded motion, the President declared the meeting adjourned and closed the final session with a prayer of thanksgiving.